

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in order to clarify the present invention. In claim 34 as amended, the species, the binding of which is to be determined, and the polymer surface are now defined by their feature of having opposite charges. The combination of this recitation, with the definition of the fluorophore as being pH or potential sensitive, renders the method of the invention clear. That is, one skilled in the art, recognizing that the species and the polymer surface have opposite charges at a give pH or potential, would readily be able to choose a fluorophore for this assay without undue experimentation.

Support for the amendment to claim 34 can be found in the specification as filed at page 2, lines 16-21 stating that the binding species and the surfaces may be positively or negatively charged at a given pH and that binding of the species to the surface may be electrostatic in nature. More specifically, the specification at page 12, relating to Figures 12A and 12B, provides an example of a cationic polymer surface, such as a polyamine, for determining the binding of anionic species, such as a nucleic acid. Further on page 12, Figure 14 illustrates an opposite situation wherein a

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negatively charged nucleic acid molecule is attached to the probe, and the species is a positively charged liposome.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.
Attorneys for Applicant

By 
Anne M. Kornbau
Registration No. 25,884

AMK:msp
Telephone No.: (202) 628-5197
Facsimile No.: (202) 737-3528
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